SUBJECTS.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) referred to the special suffering in south Travancore and to the clog placed on cultivation by the diminution of agricultural manure, as the trees near habitations were being cut and used as fuel.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and *Mr. Subramonia Karayalan* (Members, Shencottah Taluk) supported the previous speakers.

Dewan's reply.— In the case of reserved forests, there is now a duty of one rupee per ton ; and in the case of unreserved forests, the duty is one rupee per ton, if the fuel is removed for local consumption, and one rupee and eight annas per ton if the fuel is removed for export. Government do not consider these rates excessive and are not prepared to abolish or reduce the duty. It is observed that head-loads are now free.

30. *Exclusion from reserves of tracts near cultivated areas.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) requested that forest tracts bordering on inhabited and cultivated areas should be excluded from reserves. The inclusion of such tracts was not contemplated by the Forest Regulation. He said that the proximity of such reserved areas was causing great injury and mischief, as wild beasts, such as tigers, came down on the human habitations close by. He added that tracts, where teak and blackwood capable of yielding a good revenue could not be grown, were being reserved, and said he could, if necessary, furnish a list of the localities which should be excluded from the reserves.

Dewan's reply.—Government think that it would be retrograde policy to disafforest areas once reserved. All forest reservation is made after due enquiry and if we now begin to disafforest reserved areas, there will be no finality, and the tendency will then always be to put back the boundaries of forests, because cultivation has extended up to those boundaries. The member may send in a list, as moderately framed as possible, of the forests which he considers very objectionable and Government will ask the Peishkars whether the grievances alleged are sufficiently serious to warrant disafforestation. I may, however, tell you that the policy of Government will be not to adopt such a course except on very special grounds.

31. *Supply of manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi also requested that specified areas should be notified in the Gazette and thrown open to the general public for the free supply of manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements.

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SUBJECTS.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) and *Mr. Subramonia Karayalan* (Member, Shencottah Taluk) supported him.

Dewan's reply.—This matter is engaging the consideration of Government.

32. *Grazing and manure grounds.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi further requested that grounds should be set apart for the grazing of cattle and the cultivation of green manure.

Dewan's reply.—This matter is under correspondence.

33. *Sale of timber at tariff rates.*

Mr. P. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) spoke of the difficulty in getting good timber. Once in 3 months or so, timber was being sold in auction in large lots and not in small quantities, nor at times when people have a necessity for it. He requested that timber might be sold from depôts at tariff rates.

Dewan's reply.—The present practice is for all timber to be cut and brought to the depôts. The bulk of the teak, ebony and blackwood is sold to a Bombay firm which has taken a contract for their purchase at fixed rates. The timber of the above three species which is not purchased by the above firm, as well as timber of all other kinds, are sold either by auction, or at tariff rates, whichever may be most profitable to Government. No change can be made in this matter.

34. *Royal trees not to be reserved nor prohibited from being grown on private land.*

Mr. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) said that the reservation of royal trees and the prohibition of cultivation of such trees on private lands were detrimental to the increase of wealth among the subjects and that the restriction ought to be removed. He remarked that, in the interests of the landowners and the general public, it was highly necessary that the landowners should be given free scope for making use of their land to the greatest possible advantage, by allowing them to cultivate the best products suitable to the soil and take them for their own benefit.

Dewan's reply.—Government have full right of property in teak, ebony, blackwood and sandalwood, wherever they may be grown. Under the rules framed under the Forest Regulation, when a teak, ebony, blackwood or sandalwood tree is cut from a private land, the owner of such land gets a fourth of the value, Government taking the other three-fourths. There is no objection to a private landowner growing a monopoly tree on his land. The present practice cannot be altered.

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